

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Basket forceps comprising:
 - a slim sheath having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - a handling wire having a distal end and a proximal end, and movably inserted in the sheath;
 - a basket unit coupled to the distal end of the handling wire, the basket unit having a plurality of basket wires, each of the basket wires having front and rear ends, the front ends of the basket wires being bundled, the rear ends of the basket wires being also bundled, the basket wires thus providing a basket;
 - a tip member secured to the bundled front end of the basket unit;
 - a tubular basket-handling main unit coupled to the proximal end of the sheath and extending along an axis of the sheath;
 - a basket handling unit coupled to the proximal end of the handling wire, the basket handling unit being slidable relative to the basket-handling main unit in a direction in which the handling wire is movable, the basket handling unit pushing and pulling the handling wire to move the basket unit between a receipt position in which the basket unit is received in the sheath, and an expanded position in which the basket unit is pushed out of the sheath and expanded in front of the sheath, the basket unit assuming the receipt position when the handling wire is pulled, and assuming the expanded position when the handling wire is pushed: and

 a guide wire insertion hole formed through the tip member and extending from a front opening provided on a front surface of the tip member to a side opening provided on an outer periphery of the tip member, wherein an axis of the side opening has an angle formed in

a direction away from the axis of the basket a guide wire being inserted through the guide wire insertion hole.

2. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 1, wherein the sheath has an insertion lumen formed therein for inserting the handling wire and the guide wire.

3. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 1, wherein the sheath has an insertion lumen formed therin for inserting the handling wire, and a guide wire insertion lumen formed therein for inserting the guide wire.

4. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 1, wherein the tip member is formed of a resin tube, and a side opening is formed in an outer periphery of the resin tube, the side opening communicating with the guide wire insertion hole.

5. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 1, wherein the tip member is formed of a metal block, and the guide wire insertion hole is formed in the metal block.

6. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 1, wherein the tip member is provided with a wire bundling portion which bundles the basket wires, the tip member being also provided with the guide wire insertion hole which is not aligned with the wire bundling portion.

7. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 6, wherein the wire bundling portion has a metal tubular member, and the guide wire insertion hole has a resin block fitted on the tubular member.

8. (Original) The basket forceps according to claim 7, wherein the block has a hole in which the tubular member is fitted, the guide wire insertion hole being formed in the block such that the guide wire insertion hole does not communicate with the hole.

9. (New) The basket forceps according to claim 6, wherein the side opening of the tip member is provided on the distal side rather than the wire bundling portion.

10. (New) Basket forceps comprising;
a slim sheath having a distal end and a proximal end;
a handling wire having a distal end and a proximal end, and movably inserted in the sheath;

a basket unit coupled to the distal end of the handling wire, the basket unit having a plurality of basket wires, each of the basket wires having front and rear ends, the front ends of the basket wires being bundled, the rear ends of the basket wires being also bundled, the basket wires thus providing a basket;

a tip member secured to the bundled front end of the basket unit;
a tubular basket-handling main unit coupled to the proximal end of the sheath and extending along an axis of the sheath;

a basket handling unit coupled to the proximal end of the handling wire, the basket handling unit being slidable relative to the basket-handling main unit in a direction in which the handling wire is movable, the basket handling unit pushing and pulling the handling wire to move the basket unit between a receipt position in which the basket unit is received in the sheath, and an expanded position in which the basket unit is pushed out of the sheath and expanded in front of the sheath, the basket unit assuming the receipt position when the

handling wire is pulled, and assuming the expanded position when the handling wire is pushed; and

a guide wire insertion hole formed through the tip member and extending from a front opening provided on a front surface of the tip member to a rear end opening provided at a position different from that of the bundling portion of the front end of the basket unit in a rear end of the tip member, wherein the guide wire is lead in a direction away from the center of the basket.

11. (New) Basket forceps comprising:

a slim sheath having a distal end and a proximal end;

a handling wire having a distal end and a proximal end, and movably inserted in the sheath;

a basket unit coupled to the distal end of the handling wire, the basket unit having a plurality of basket wires, each of the basket wires having front and rear ends, the front ends of the basket wires being bundled, the rear ends of the basket wires being also bundled, the basket wires thus providing a basket;

a tip member secured to the bundled front end of the basket unit;

a tubular basket-handling main unit coupled to the proximal end of the sheath and extending along an axis of the sheath;

a basket handling unit coupled to the proximal end of the handling wire, the basket handling unit being slidable relative to the basket-handling main unit in a direction in which the handling wire is movable, the basket handling unit pushing and pulling the handling wire to move the basket unit between a receipt position in which the basket unit is received in

the sheath, and an expanded position in which the basket unit is pushed out of the sheath and expanded in front of the sheath, the basket unit assuming the receipt position when the handling wire is pulled, and assuming the expanded position when the handling wire is pushed: and

a guide wire insertion hole formed through the tip member and extending from a front surface of the tip member to an outer periphery of the tip member, a guide wire being inserted through the guide wire insertion hole;

wherein the sheath has an insertion lumen formed therein for inserting the handling wire, and a guide wire insertion lumen formed therein for inserting the guide wire.